

**In the Claims**

14. (Amended) An illumination source comprising a linear tube ~~comprising~~ having a first end and a second end, the tube having ~~an inner surface having a luminescent substance distributed thereon, a longitudinal~~ a continuous distribution density of the a luminescent substance, ~~having a minimum at a first point of the inner surface, the tube~~ distribution having a luminescent substance density ~~greater~~ less than ~~the minimum at~~ each of a second and third point of the distribution ~~inner surface~~, the first point longitudinally located between the second and third points.

15. (original) The illumination source according to claim 14, wherein the luminescent substance density of the second and third points are equivalent.

16. (original) The illumination source according to claim 14, wherein the luminescent substance is phosphor.

17. (original) The illumination source according to claim 14, wherein the tube includes a first electrode mount area and a second electrode mount area, the second point longitudinally located between the first point and the first electrode mount area, the third point longitudinally located between the second point and the second electrode mount area.

18. (original) The illumination source according to claim 14, wherein the illumination source is a cold cathode fluorescent lamp.

19. (original) The illumination source according to claim 14, wherein the illumination source is a xenon lamp.